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F22A

No. 16

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. FARMERS' HOME ADMINISTRATION

Staunton, Virginia

April, 1956

3 AUGUSTA, HIGHLAND & NELSON

FHA NEWS ROUNDUP

IT PAYS TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

1955 RECORDS

Enclosed with this newsletter is a mimeographed sheet entitled "It Pays to Grow Your Own Food - You Can't Afford Not To." An examination of that sheet will show you how important home food production is from a money value viewpoint. Do you produce for home use milk, eggs, poultry, pork, beef, fruits and vegetables worth \$921 or more? If you do, then you have already planted, or soon will plant, the early vegetables such as: Green peas, onions, potatoes, spinach and other greens, lettuce, carrots, beets, salsify, and raddish.

Usually, we emphasize considerably the 'average' records for the past year. With only a limited number of farmers on many varying types of farms in August, Highland, and Nelson Counties, we realize that the average of all of these may not be very significant figures. However, for your information and for comparison with your own records, we are giving below some of the average figures from the 1955 records:

Total Income	\$5400.
Farm Income	3894.
Farm Operating Expense	2539.
Family Living Expense	1138.
Paid on Debts	1541.
Value Productive Livestock	3504.

SOCIAL SECURITY

We hope that all farmers filed their Income Tax - Social Security returns in January or February as they should have done. However, if you have overlooked doing so, be sure to file it before April 15. For failure to file a return by February 15 or an estimate in January, a farmer may be subject to a penalty of 6% of the amount of income tax.

Social Security for farmers means much to you. Old age and other benefit payments offered by it means a type of security that most farmers never enjoyed before. The law requires that all farmers file a return--if you have not filed, certainly do not let the April 15 deadline pass without your having done so.

WATCH YOUR ALFALFA

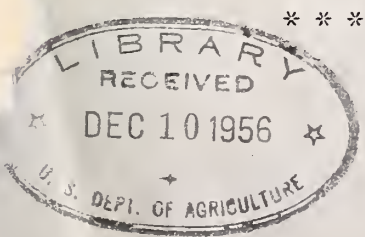
If your alfalfa did not have a heavy infestation of pea aphids in May of last year, then you were one of the lucky ones. In addition to the threat from pea aphids and spittle bug, a new pest for this area, alfalfa weevil, is a possibility; so keep a close watch for these insects or their damage. If observed, contact your County Agent immediately for recommendations on control.

SMALL FRUITS

Perhaps during strawberry or raspberry season while trying to obtain some of these fine fruits, you make a resolution to establish a patch of your own. We hope that this will remind you that now is the time to have the ground prepared and to order your plants. Taking this action now, should mean a good supply of these fruits in 1957. We know of one family who, after satisfying their own appetites, sold over \$250 worth of strawberries from a small patch.

DISASTER AREA

The Secretary of Agriculture has declared Augusta and Nelson Counties as disaster areas for fruit growers. This was due to the freeze in March, 1955, which killed all peaches and most of the apple crop. Additional loss to the remaining apple crop occurred when hurricanes Connie and Diane blew off and bruised apples. In these counties, emergency loans are available through Farmers Home Administration to eligible fruit growers.



Stuart H. Barrell
Stuart H. Barrell, County Supervisor

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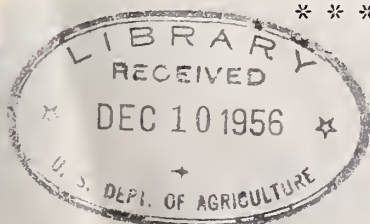
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